

# Northwood Residents' Association



Newsletter 150

June 2011

## Chairman's Report - Tony Ellis



### Introduction

It is with a very heavy heart that I have to report the death of another committee member less than two years after the death of Barry Crowe. Like Barry, Malcolm Ruddock was a very active man and died unexpectedly. He also played a full part in the life of Northwood, particularly with the NRA.

The role of Planning Officer requires both excellent technical and interpersonal skills. The ability to understand complicated plans and planning law and to deal with residents, council planning officers and developers are a fundamental part of the job. Malcolm did all of these things and was liked and respected by everyone he came into contact with.

Farewell dear friend – Rest in Peace.

We are fortunate that our President, Alan Prue, has agreed to act as Planning Officer until a new appointment is made. Many of you will remember that Alan was Malcolm's predecessor.

### Council Funds

Some members have asked why the council is apparently wasting funds on what they consider to be peripheral things when the money could be better spent on repairing roads and pavements for instance.

Each year the council budgets to spend an allocated sum of money on different areas of activity. Much of this is received from the Government for these specific purposes and the council is not allowed to transfer the money from one area of expenditure to another. See Page 7 for our councillors' full explanation.

### Annual General Meeting

Our AGM in March was well attended and we were given a most interesting talk about

NATO, the Northwood base and piracy in Somalia by a husband and wife team from the Royal Netherlands Navy, Commander Andre van der Kamp and Lieutenant Klara Schellekens.

Committee members Valerie Mellor, Ann Bailey, Colin Harris and Adrian Paterson tendered their resignations. I would like to thank them for their valuable contributions to the NRA.

There were no new nominees.

In recognition of her 26 years' service, the committee proposed that Valerie should be elected to the position of Vice President. This was approved by members.


### Your Committee

For some time now we have been asking members to join the committee. So far, our requests have fallen on deaf ears. At the moment, we have vacancies for a Chief Road Steward and a Planning Officer. There are also vacancies for general committee members and road stewards.

The NRA cannot function effectively without a full committee and if we cannot recruit new members, we will have to curtail our activities. The role of Chief Road Steward, general committee members and road stewards are not particularly time demanding – the role of Planning Officer is time demanding and is better carried out by a semi-retired or retired person.

If you value the work of the NRA, please do consider volunteering to join the committee and take an active part in the life of Northwood.

On the positive side, we are fortunate that Farah Condor, the owner of Senses, has joined the committee. She is the first business member to join the committee and we look forward to forging a more proactive relationship with the business community.

Continued on Page 2 

### CONTENTS

Page 1	• Chairman's Report
Page 2	• Traffic & Highways
Page 3	• Malcolm Ruddock • Health
Page 4	• Environment • Met Line
Page 5	• Northwood SNT • Northwood U3A
Page 6	• Planning • Woods • NLAH
Page 7	• Councillors' Corner • Comforts Fund • Sobell House
Page 8	• Treasurer • Sobell Bridge Club
Page 9	• Barry Crowe • Library • CCJ
Page 10	• Spell check • Open Gardens • LJMC
Page 11	• NDCA • Harrow Marquetry • Lions
Page 12	• Contacts • What's On, ads

## Chairman's Report ctd.

### Membership Database

At the end of 2010 we received a Grass Roots grant of £5000. Most of this was used for the design and implementation of a membership database and computer equipment. The new system enables us to keep better records of members and payment of subscriptions. We also have the facility to email members with up-to-date information – particularly useful when urgent information needs to be disseminated.

If you wish to receive update emails, please send your email address, name and address to [membership@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:membership@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

### Conclusion

As ever, it is a pleasure to be your Chairman and I look forward to meeting you and receiving your telephone calls, letters and emails. Please do not hesitate to contact me, however trivial your query or comment seems to be.

I am grateful to Councillors Scott Seaman-Digby and Carol Melvin who continue to put up with our numerous queries and obtain comments and action from council officials as necessary. Their willing co-operation makes our work so much easier and we work well together as a team. I should also like to thank the many council officials who are always ready to help us.

*Tony Ellis*

[chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

Tel: 01923 821237

## Traffic and Highways

### Town Centre Traffic Lights

A petition started by a local trader was heard by London Borough of Hillingdon on April 20th asking for the traffic lights in the centre of Northwood to be removed.

The outcome of the petition hearing is that there is to be a full review by LBH of the phasing of the lights and an analysis of all the problems that have been reported. It was

acknowledged that the lights were far from perfect, and that they cause confusion and frustration.

The lights, although deeply unpopular with many people, appear to be here to stay. Following advice from the Metropolitan Police Traffic Division, LBH say that it will be unsafe to remove them. All we can hope is that the review, which will have input from many different groups, including NRA, will pinpoint ways in which improvements can be made.

There is also to be an independent review, to which NRA will contribute.

### Parking Charges in Northwood

A petition is also with LBH waiting to be heard, signed by local traders unhappy at the decision to increase the hourly charge for parking to 70 pence per hour for non-Hillingdon residents.



This of course affects residents from the Hertfordshire side of Northwood who regard the shopping area as their local one. It is now as expensive to park in Northwood for an hour as it is in Pinner. It can also make shopping in Rickmansworth a more attractive option, as it is possible to park there free of charge for two hours.

Many of the businesses report a downturn in trade over the past year or two and cite three main reasons: increased parking charges, insufficient on-street parking and the traffic lights, which some say have caused customers to abandon Northwood altogether.

### The Glen

A petition by residents of The Glen has also been heard. LBH is to commission a study of the feasibility of having a zebra crossing on Green Lane somewhere near the junction with The Glen.

### New Zebra Crossing, Rickmansworth Road

The crossing by Northwood Golf Club has now been installed. Predictably, people who used to park in that area are now parking further along the road towards Northwood Hills, on both sides. This appears to be causing some traffic flow problems as Rickmansworth Road is slightly narrower at that point and there is not enough room for two lines of traffic if one of the vehicles is a lorry.

We have informed LBH of the problem.

### Potholes

Several residents have reported potholes following the piece in the last newsletter. All complaints have been passed on to LBH. Please continue to send details to us by emailing

[traffichighways@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:traffichighways@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

*Lisa Maclay*

## Malcolm Ruddock 1952 to 2011

Tireless worker with Northwood Boys' Club; 30 years a member of the Met Police, or 'Metrocomical Police Farce' as he liked to refer to it; dependable Planning Officer for the NRA; devoted father ... Much has been said about Malcolm in the press, on Facebook and at his funeral, but the two facets of his personality that always came to the fore were his helpfulness and his sense of humour.

We each have our own Malcolm tales to tell; here's mine. I had seen Malcolm many times at Hillside School during the 1980s where, not content with being the local beat bobby, he also took part in their Easter Fairs bringing along his pet snakes to show the children. But the first time we actually spoke was when I rang to ask him to serve on an Appeals Panel; he took the call in his bath! We tried to have a serious conversation, but it was rather echoey and punctuated by splish-splashing noises, so, inevitably, it ended in giggles.

More recently I have had the good fortune to attend NRA committee meetings with Malcolm. Yes, he did seem to turn up in all corners of Northwood life, but like the proverbial bad penny? Certainly not!



Ros Plume

## Health Matters

**Community Voice.** Dr Ian Goodman of Mountwood Surgery has been elected to the Board of the Hillingdon GP Shadow Consortium set up to evaluate GP commissioning in Hillingdon until 2013. The consortium will gradually take over commissioning of medical services from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) system. Dr Goodman is of the opinion that GPs do not want to take control of a large budget, given the extra work they will have to take on caring for patients whom they would have previously referred to specialist care in hospital.

**Hillingdon** is trying to improve community care, including Mental Health and Urgent Care services, so as to prevent unnecessary re-admission to hospital. What is being encouraged is more treatment in GP surgeries and less referral to specialist services in hospitals. It is suggested that glaucoma eye disease could be monitored by opticians. However, this is a condition requiring expert specialist treatment and monitoring.

**Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals.** Legal proceedings have begun against the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT) claiming that the options put out for public consultation in recommending hospitals to continue offering specialist children's cardiac surgery have ignored the expertise at Royal Brompton Hospital. If the Brompton unit closed, it would be impossible to maintain the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit and important respiratory services, including those for cystic fibrosis. In addition, such a closure would seriously impede the work of Harefield Hospital in its care of paediatric cardiac cases, following surgery at Brompton. A petition has already been organised and a protest meeting took place at the Emirates Stadium. To add your voice to the protest write to your MP at [www.rbht.nhs.uk/mpletter](http://www.rbht.nhs.uk/mpletter)

**Mount Vernon Cancer Centre.** Dr Andreas Makris, Consultant Oncologist at Mount Vernon has said that when he joined the hospital in 1997 there

were 8 or 9 oncology consultants, whereas now there are 27. State-of-the-art equipment has been installed, including linear accelerators and the cyberknife. The Lynda Jackson Centre at Mount Vernon provides the best information on cancer treatments in the country. There is a movement towards the merger of Mount Vernon Hospital with the Royal Marsden Hospital, highly regarded as a specialist cancer hospital.

**Hillingdon and Mount Vernon Hospitals.** Introduction of a loop system for the assistance of hearing-impaired people is under way. Fifty sites, including the main reception areas, have been identified.

**Rising Car Park Charges.** East and North Herts is now charging £2.90 for up to two hours and £4.60 for up to five hours' parking. The June edition of Which? magazine intends to publish an investigation into hospital car-parking charges.

**Patients' Association.** The Chief Executive of Asthma UK insists that patients should be able to access NICE-approved drugs and PCTs should not try to restrict drugs to the cheapest option, instead of the most appropriate treatment. A spokesman for the Department of Health has said that GPs are legally obliged to fund treatment and drugs recommended by NICE.

The Patients' Association reports a drop in hip and knee replacement operations, cataract removals and tonsillectomies. Some treatments are having funding withdrawn or restricted. Waiting times to see consultants have increased beyond the eighteen week target enshrined in the NHS Constitution.

**Herbal Medicines.** Under a European directive, herbal medicines on sale in shops will have to be registered to meet safety, quality and manufacturing standards and come with information on possible side-effects.

Freda Kosmin  
[health@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:health@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

## Environment

### Advertising Banners on Railings – About Turn!

As many of you will have noticed, advertising banners have not been banned from roadside railings after all. LBH has now produced a detailed policy document covering the display of banners on roadside railings. Advertising for community and charity events will be allowed under licence and subject to insurance being in place. Recently a high level banner appeared over the Coral betting shop in Green Lane, advertising a café in Station Approach. No word yet on the LBH response.

### Estate Agents' Boards

It has become common practice amongst some estate agents to leave their advertising boards up long after the original transaction, whether for sale, sold or let, is completed. In the worst instances, boards are simply added next to those that are legitimate. They gain free advertising for as long as the board remains, until it is

needed elsewhere or it simply falls over. NRA has recently submitted a detailed report to LBH on two areas where the situation was particularly bad – Thirlmere Gardens and The Avenue – enforcement action is expected.

### Spring Growth

With all the hot weather and finally, a few downpours, trees and shrubs are growing rapidly. Please check that the growth from your property is not overhanging the pavements and impeding pedestrians. Where there is a problem with growth from trees in public areas, it can be reported via the LBH website, using their 'report it' form, or by telephone via the Contact Centre. Please feel free to pass your problem on to NRA if you have no response and we will chase it up for you.

*Anna Davis*

[environment@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:environment@northwoodresidents.co.uk)



**Thanks to the local businesses who help to make our town centre environment more attractive.**

## Metropolitan Line

Earlier this year, representatives from many residents' associations along the Metropolitan Line north of Harrow, met with Mike Brown, Managing Director of London Underground and senior members of Met management, to discuss the ever-deteriorating service. We left them in no doubt that passengers were at the end of their tether and that the current situation simply could not continue.

They acknowledged that things must improve, and Mike Brown promised that there would be a "fantastically different performance on the Met Line" by the time we met again at the end of May.

There has certainly been some improvement in the last few months. There are apparently more technical staff available to deal with "incidents", and the almost daily signal failures and cancelled trains have decreased – although as I write this the line has been suspended between Harrow-on-the-Hill and Watford due to a signal failure.

We were also promised that there would be enough money to keep the old rolling stock and signals going until they could be replaced.

One particular problem was with the changeover of drivers at Harrow-on-the-Hill. Often, trains would arrive there and there would be no driver available to take the train on. This appears to have improved.

Complaints about information available at Harrow-on-the-Hill have also been taken seriously and there are

now extra staff to monitor what is happening and pass on the information to passengers. It is still not perfect, but it is a start.

The delivery of the new S stock trains appears to have stalled, mainly because of teething problems, particularly involving the doors. Our concern is that the old stock must be retained (i.e. not scrapped) until there are sufficient numbers of the new stock.

Incidentally, the contract for the new signalling has finally been awarded, but it will be about another 7 years before completion, with the old signals getting more unreliable all the time, so proper maintenance is of course absolutely essential. Weekend closures continue unabated, which is very depressing for those needing or wanting to get into London on Saturdays and Sundays.

Rest assured that we will continue to lobby for further improvements. It must also be borne in mind that the improved service has coincided with a period of exceptionally dry weather, which may explain why there have been fewer failures. We know that the points and signals are greatly affected by rain and by very cold weather, so the current mild weather is not a true test.

As usual, we would be very glad to have your comments on the service. Please email [met@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:met@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

*Lisa Maclay*

*Federation of Metropolitan Line Users' Committees*

## Northwood Safer Neighbourhoods Team

I have a few issues to inform you about in this newsletter:

- **Scrap metal.** There has been an increase in the number of thefts of metals. Lead roofs are being targeted and also garden gates. In fact, if any scrap metal is lying about unsecured then it is a target for thieves. Please secure gates etc and lock away garden tools. If you need advice, please contact me or my team.
- **Road Watch.** The main complaints I get from our community concern speeding motorists. We have regular operations using a speed gun, but there is now an opportunity for you to get involved. Road Watch is speed detection carried out by trained volunteers standing on the pavement at identified locations.

The scheme runs as follows - a road is identified as a location where speed is an issue. A traffic management officer from the police attends and arranges a speed survey using specialist monitoring equipment if the physics of the road support a Road Watch site. After the survey proves the issue, trained volunteers and police staff attend and record details of speeding vehicles. The police then generate a warning letter which is sent to the registered owner of the vehicle. If a vehicle is caught a second time, a stronger letter is generated and sent again.

If you are interested in becoming involved or want more details then please contact me. Training takes about two hours.

- **ATM thefts.** Please continue to be cautious when using the ATMs at all banks in Northwood. We are still being targeted by thieves putting contraptions over the machine in order to steal either your money or your PIN.



- **Northwood police station is 100 years old this year.** To celebrate, on Saturday 18th June, between 11am and 2pm we are holding an open day at the station. There will be old police vehicles, visits from mounted branch, dog section and hopefully a fly past by the police helicopter. (Operational commitments permitting.) You are most welcome to join us.

*Police Sergeant Ian Stacey*

Tel: 020 8721 2545 or 07909 872377  
[northwood.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:northwood.snt@met.police.uk)

*Northwood Police Station is open to the public  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 11.00 to 13.00*

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## Northwood and District U3A – University of the Third Age

On April 6th Hillingdon and Harrow U3As joined forces to hold an open meeting to discuss the possibility of starting a new branch of the U3A for the Northwood Area. Over 200 interested people attended the meeting. Following this 287 folk have completed questionnaires enquiring about interests, 25 offered to be on a steering group and 52 offered to run or facilitate groups. All in all a wonderful response!



A steering group has now been formed and is working hard towards formalising the legalities and administrative requirements as advised by the Third Age Trust. We plan to hold the inaugural meeting at the beginning of July at Fairfield church in Northwood Hills when more information about potential activities, details of membership fee, and the opportunity to join will be available. This meeting will be publicised on local websites, public libraries etc.

It is then expected to hold a regular monthly meeting with a speaker, and an opportunity to share information on groups and activities, and most importantly the chance to socialise with fellow Third Agers. We look forward to meeting many of you in the future.

*Jill Besant  
Chairman*



## Planning

For the immediate future I will be taking back the job of reviewing all Planning Applications presented to the London Borough of Hillingdon council for properties in the Northwood area. I hope you will bear with me whilst I get up to speed on those applications which Malcolm had been working on. It would be immensely helpful if you could contact me if you had been in communication with Malcolm on specific problems recently.

**Reindeer Site.** At present the NRA is dealing with the recent re-application by Excelsior Properties to develop the site of the Reindeer Public House in Maxwell Road. The re-application uses their original plans previously rejected by the LBH and subsequently turned down by the Planning Inspector at appeal. The NRA has formally registered an objection to this scheme and has raised a petition. At present we are

unaware of the hearing date, but will publish it on the NRA website as soon as we are.

**Business on Green Belt.** We are also working with the local councillors and the residents of Carlton Place to fight against a proposed 'dog training' business which is seeking permission to be operated on the Green Belt immediately alongside Carlton Place. \*



Alan Prue  
[planning@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:planning@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

\* As we go to press, we can now report that the application was refused unanimously at the Hillingdon North Planning Committee hearing on 19th May.

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## Ruislip Woods

### The do-do's and don'ts in the woods.

I have been asked by the Woods Committee to compile a 'Yellow Card' scheme and Poster to restrict unsociable activity by some dogs and their owners.

Now that summer is here, the cows in Poor's Field, almost on a weekly basis, are chased onto busy roads by aggressive dogs. Professional dog walkers have been seen with as many as eleven dogs in one pack and poo bags are regularly thrown onto the bushes. The Woods' Rangers don't wish to be draconian in their actions but want to strike a balance between giving dogs and humans the freedom of our lovely woods yet controlling the excesses of just a few. If you have any views on this, do contact me through the NRA website.

Finally, some mature trees have been felled in Poor's Field. This is part of the 'Five Year Plan' from English Nature to return Poor's Field to its original state of more open grassland. Many trees will stay, but a few clumps will go to create open parkland from the Lido to the northern pond along the side of the woods.

Miles Gillman  
[woods@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:woods@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

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## Northwood Live At Home Scheme

**Thank you** to all those Northwood residents who supported the NLAH Musical Evening on April 2nd. It was a most enjoyable occasion, with excellent singing from Jubilate and Barnard's Barber Shop and raised a significant amount for the scheme.



**Staff changes.** Angela O'Malley, the Scheme Manager for the last five years, has been promoted within MHA, and we are glad that she will continue to be connected with the Scheme as our Area Manager. It is hoped to announce the new Manager shortly. The Scheme is also very grateful to Chris Rogers for all his quality work during his six years as Treasurer. We are pleased that David Cameron FCA has now taken on the position.

If you have any questions about the support that the Scheme gives the older person in Northwood and Northwood Hills, or wish to become a volunteer, please contact the office on 01923 842494 or see the NRA web site for details.

Sue Mansfield, NLAH Chairman

## Councillors' Corner

Each edition of the newsletter carries our Councillors' responses to questions put by members of the NRA committee.

**Q.** Some members have asked why the council is apparently wasting funds on what they consider to be peripheral things when the money could be better spent on repairing roads and pavements for instance. How is council expenditure determined?

**A.** The council receives funding from many different areas of Government as well as through Council Tax. Some of this money is allocated to specific areas such as roads, schools and care provision, and cannot be transferred. Budgets are set each year to meet both statutory requirements and the objectives in the Council Plan. However, the Government is currently implementing its localism agenda and some ring-fencing stipulations are being removed; the council continues to monitor this.

**The Council Plan** sets out community themes and values for the years ahead, based on feedback from local residents, partners, businesses and visitors. It reports on the council's performance and achievements over the last year and maps out plans to improve services over the next three years.

In addition to the Council Plan there is the forward plan which details the key decisions to be taken by the Cabinet over the next four months. Both of these documents can be found in the Council and Democracy section of the council Website: [www.hillingdon.gov.uk](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk)

The Administration has set four key priorities. These are:

- **Value for Money**

Services our residents want and need that are well run and represent the best value for money.

- **Our Natural Environment**

Services that protect and enhance our beautiful open spaces and parks.

- **Our Built Environment**

Services that protect our cultural heritage and historic buildings.

- **Our People**

Maintaining services our residents tell us they want, that keep them safe and support their economic and physical wellbeing.

These priorities determine where the council's discretionary funding is spent.

### **The elected councillors for Northwood ward are:**

Richard Lewis, Carol Melvin and Scott Seaman-Digby

### **To contact your councillors:**

Tel: 01895 250316 (Civic Centre Office) or  
01923 822876 (Northwood Ward Office)

Email all at:

[northwoodward@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:northwoodward@hillingdon.gov.uk)

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## Mount Vernon Comforts Fund

The year to April 2011 has been a successful one for our three shops, trolley service and Radiotherapy tea bar. We have raised a total of nearly £80,000 which will be distributed to wards and departments wishing to purchase items not otherwise affordable from NHS budgets. Despite many changes in the hospital, including the introduction of vending machines selling sweets and confectionery, we have loyal customers who continue to give their support.

Our book shop receives donations of books and our Look-in charity shop is happy to take clothes and bric-à-brac. If you are downsizing or decluttering, please bring items to the shops between 11am and 3pm, Monday to Friday. Thank you.

If anyone feels they have a few hours to spare to help us raise money at Mount Vernon please contact us on [jan\\_sutton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jan_sutton@yahoo.co.uk)

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## Friends of Michael Sobell House

### **Sunday 10 July Vintage Fair & Antiques Valuation Event**

A fun day out for all the family! There will be stalls selling an abundance of vintage goodies, a vintage fashion show, classic car exhibition, plus the chance to have your heirlooms & antiques valued by qualified valuers (11am - 4pm, six items maximum per person at £2 each). Great cream teas will be available too, 11am - 5pm.

Parking will be FREE on site.

Tickets are now on sale!

Entrance: £5 Adult, £4 Senior Citizen, £2.50 Children over 5 years old

For more information contact Beverley Garber on 07903 921778 or email [bevseg@hotmail.com](mailto:bevseg@hotmail.com)





## From the Treasurer

One of the first things one notices when visiting a place is how tidy and clean it is. A lack of litter suggests a well mannered and well kept neighbourhood. It also

enables the reality to be observed without the disgusting leftovers of the morally questionable. Litter is just unpleasant and has unpleasant consequences.

So what does this have to do with finance? A lot! Litter strewn streets create a bad impression and decrease the desirability of an area, which ultimately leads to reduced property values. Removing litter also costs ratepayers money, not only in cleaning the streets but in disposal. Many items should have been recycled but are more likely to end up in land fill when collected via street cleaning.

So littering creates jobs, some litter bugs may suggest. Not really, streets have to be cleaned anyway and the creation of such jobs is not a desirable goal. Research has shown that where there is litter, it will attract yet more. The same phenomenon applies to graffiti, car parking and behaviour in general. In one study bicycles were banned from being chained to railings. They stayed bicycle clear. However, when a bike was chained, others followed suit. The same applies to litter; the first piece will invariably lead to additions.

So, from a financial point of view, littering is an expensive activity. It is unwanted, antisocial, blights areas and degrades neighbourhoods. It is easily avoidable, just take your rubbish with you until it can be disposed of properly, ideally recycled. Northwood is a pleasant area, let us all strive to keep it that way and free of litter.

If you see litter in the area, it is easy to report it to the council; either 'phone 01895 556000 or go to their website: [www.hillingdon.gov.uk](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk) and click on the 'Report it' link in the right hand box.



Keep Northwood Tidy

**The accounts** for the 2010

financial year end have been

audited and approved at the AGM;

if you would like a copy please email me. Income was marginally higher than expenditure but a significant part of the income was from grants and, given these austere times, they may not remain at such levels in the future. Subscription revenues were slightly higher than the previous year, but overall member numbers did not show much growth. The higher the membership, the greater our representation and mandate. Business membership increased significantly. Northwood benefits from businesses and the NRA offers support to them. Local shops can only survive if they remain profitable. As such please support the local shops, clubs and organisations; a vibrant centre aids the community.

**Members are vital.** Without the continued support of members the NRA cannot function so please do continue your memberships and encourage any non-members to join. Importantly, please make life as easy as possible for your road steward who delivers the newsletters and collects subs and is your conduit for direct communication.

David Blowers

[treasurer@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

## From Small Acorns - the growth of Sobell Bridge Club



The Sobell Bridge Club gets its name from its association with the hospice, *Michael Sobell House*, located in the grounds of Mount Vernon hospital. The Club began in May 1992 when a meeting attended by 30 people

adopted a constitution whose aims were primarily social and secondly charitable.

By 1994 membership had grown to 152 and donations to the Hospice amounted to £7,600. There were now two weekly sessions and the club further expanded through quarterly supper bridge drives, bridge weekends at various hotels and an afternoon session at a nearby church hall.

The club's membership was boosted by the introduction of a thirteen-week beginners' training course supported by refresher and improvement classes. By 1997 the club played on four nights of the week, membership was 360 and the cumulative Hospice donations amounted to £60,000.

There then followed a somewhat frustrating process of searching for larger and more permanent premises. A building fund was created. Eventually the fund helped finance a building to be used for administrative purposes by the *Friends of Michael Sobell House*. It includes a hall used for health-care education during the day and for up to 25 tables of bridge for the five evening sessions together with a bridge storeroom and office. It opened in 2007.

Since that time we have lost many of our founding fathers, in particular, Stanley Nicholls, without whose drive the club would not exist. He established a club with clear aims and firm foundations that now raises about £36,000 each year to support the hospice.

Further information can be found at [www.sobell-bridge.org.uk](http://www.sobell-bridge.org.uk) or call 01923 829845.

Doug Edmonds  
Chairman



## Barry Crowe's Memorial

Crowe's Nest is a children's playground tucked away on the Hawes and Bennett Close estate. As chairman of the Hawes and Bennett Close Residents' Association Barry Crowe was instrumental in obtaining LBH funding to redevelop a piece of waste land into this playground which local children named Crowe's Nest in his honour.



Sadly Barry died in July 2009, but his memory also lives on in the form of a flowering cherry tree donated by the Northwood Residents' Association. On Sunday 13th March 2011, Barry's granddaughter unveiled a plaque dedicating the tree to Barry's memory. NRA committee members, friends and neighbours attended.

## Northwood Library Update

Despite the cuts in many libraries across the country, Hillingdon Libraries are in a strong position and Northwood Library continues to offer a wide range of books, computers and other services to residents.

We offer a range of events and activities for children. Recent events run for children were an Explore Learning 'Adventure' Workshop for children aged 7-11 and a Royal Wedding craft event, when children made favour boxes and bunting. Both were very much enjoyed by all who attended.

We have recently introduced music and songs into our fortnightly Storytime sessions for pre-school children so bring your children or grandchildren along and join in the fun! Storytime takes place on alternate Fridays 10am – 10.30am and we also offer half-price tea or coffee from between 10am and 11am to increase your enjoyment.

The Summer Reading Challenge, which is borough-wide, will be launched in June and this year's theme is Circus.

@ Hillingdon Libraries



The Chess Club has changed its timing and now takes place on Saturday afternoons, 2.30 – 3.30pm.

For adults, we have recently had displays of books on gardening and travel books for holiday destinations. Future events include Let's Look at

1921 (when the Royal British Legion was established) and a charity coffee morning in aid of RBL.

By popular demand, the recycling bags have been re-introduced to all Hillingdon libraries. Just bring your Hillingdon First Card into the library to claim your roll of bags.

Do come along and see us

Green Lane, Northwood, HA6 3AB  
Tel: 01895 558262

Opening hours:  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9am-6pm,  
Tuesday 9am-7pm, Saturday 9am-4pm.

*Catherine Livingston  
Branch Manager*

## Council of Christians and Jews

Events have continued to be well supported this year. In April we organised a Seder (Passover meal) at which over 100 people of many faiths, and of none, from all over Hillingdon enjoyed a delicious meal, listened to an entertaining explanation of the Seder from Rabbi Aaron Goldstein, and joined in the singing of the traditional Hebrew songs.

Everyone is very welcome to come to our meetings, and the programme for June and July is as follows:

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June:** "The Mission of God – Creation, Abraham, Jesus" will be discussed by the Rev Mike Talbot, Vicar of Emmanuel Church, Northwood. 8.00pm at Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue, Oaklands Gate, Northwood. HA6 3AA.

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July:** Following a brief AGM, Fr. John Deehan, Parish Priest of St. Thomas More R.C. Church, Eastcote, will give a talk on **St. Matthew's Gospel - which is also known as the Hebrew Gospel**. 8.00pm at St. Lawrence Church, Bridle Road, Eastcote, Pinner. HA5 2SJ.

**There will not be a Hillingdon CCJ meeting in August.**

Enquiries to Hon Sec. 'Phone 07836 676792.

## Spell-chequer rules, awl wright?

Some of my writer friends swear by their spelling checkers, but I've had reservations since my very first one which, like all of them in those days, was American. Not only was it baffled by English spellings, it refused to recognise a single adverb. Now, one of the first things those 'Be A Published Author In Six Weeks' courses tell you is, 'Get rid of the adverbs,' but you can go too far. One had the choice of laboriously entering every adverbial form in the English language into a separate dictionary, or screaming and throwing things. I chose the latter route.

Spelling checkers now have adverbs, and a selection of proper nouns, which rather spoils the fun we used to have with the 'suggested alternatives' the computer threw up when it didn't recognise names as words. For 'Brenda' one was offered Breeder, Breezy and Brazen - obviously the compiler was acquainted with the Brenda I knew at school. 'Philip' became Philosopher - definitely not the Philip I dated.

The problem is that if your mistake is a word in its own right, the spelling checker won't pick it up. For instance, in the first sentence of this piece I originally typed 'sweat' in mistake for 'swear' - although I suppose there are enough people who dislike the things to make that sentence work just as well either way.

May I close with a dear little poem, which I'm sure many of you know, but which I feel says it all, really, for those of us who were taught by the infallible method - a series of clumps on the head - to do it for ourselves.

*I have a spelling chequer.  
It came with my pea see.  
It plane lea Marx four my revue  
Miss takes eye cannot sea.  
I ran this poem threw it,  
And Yule bee pleased two no  
It's rite as reign in every weigh -  
My chequer tolled me sew!*

Cynthia Harrod-Eagles

## Midsummer Weekend Gardens Open For Charity

Sponsored by Gibbs Gillespie & Ducks Hill Garden Centre Ruislip

On the weekend of the 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> June, 18 gardens in Northwood, Ruislip, Ickenham, Pinner, Eastcote and Moor Park will be opening their gates to the general public to raise money for LOCAL charities. In addition to daytime openings, three gardens will be opening during Saturday evening for wine and nibbles. At many gardens there will be plants for sale as well as afternoon teas and refreshments; at some there will also be bric à brac and raffles etc.

Full details and information on how to purchase a ticket are at [www.localopengardens.com](http://www.localopengardens.com) or call Warren on 01923 451616 or email [info@localopengardens.com](mailto:info@localopengardens.com)

Tickets are £8 and give you access to ALL gardens over the whole weekend. When you receive your ticket it will include full details on each garden and of all the charities benefiting.

Warren Reeves



## LJMC news



**Stewarts Law Moor Park 10k & Junior Fun Runs  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2011,  
Merchant Taylors' School**

This September sees the tenth Moor Park 10k, the annual road race that is held to raise money for the **Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre (LJMC)** at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre.

Since it was first organised in 2002, this event has grown significantly and raised £280,000 which has gone directly towards the provision of the LJMC's services of support and information for people affected by cancer.

To celebrate this special anniversary, the organisers are keen to make this the biggest and best event yet and welcome the support of local residents in their quest. First and foremost, we encourage you to take part. Runners, joggers and walkers of all speeds, standards

and ages are welcome. The junior events start from 12 noon with races for different age groups. The Moor Park 10k starts at 3.00pm.

Offers of help on the day will be gratefully received. From marshalling to handing out medals to running the Tombola, there are plenty of jobs to be done. It's always a great, fun, family atmosphere.

Sponsors of the trophies for the winning runners and teams are also welcomed. If you or your company are interested in learning more about this, we will be delighted to hear from you.

You can find out more information from: [www.moorpark10k.org.uk](http://www.moorpark10k.org.uk) or call the Race Director, John Hambleton, on 07779 458285

There's more information about the work of the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre at [www.ljmc.org](http://www.ljmc.org)

## Northwood & District Community Association

What has happened to the Barn Dance?

At our recent AGM a lady who had just joined our short mat bowls evening, suddenly remembered that she used to enjoy our Annual Barn Dance. Particularly that there was always a good buffet with a wonderful dessert of Malteser Meringue Cake! We used to have regular Barn Dances



but eventually, as we could not book a caller, they ceased. We then replaced them with a Christmas Quiz. Are Barn Dances still held? They were a lot of fun and people of all ages and sexes used to attend; not many gatherings can boast that these days, except perhaps street parties. Are they now lost, replaced by line dancing etc? If you have heard of one, can you let me know please? As usual, any new members to our Association would always be welcome.

Pat Dunhill  
01923 836346

## The Harrow Marquetry Group

Marquetry is the coverage of the entire surface of a board or piece of furniture with veneers, in the form of a skilfully applied design or picture. Marquetry as we know it became widely used by the Italians in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Marquetry seemed to fade for a time but was revived again in a more artistic form on furniture around the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. It was extensively used in Holland and Germany in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century in the decoration of cabinets, sideboards and other articles of furniture and to a lesser extent, on panelling and architectural woodwork.

Marquetry was revived as a pictorial hobby and the Marquetry Society was formed in 1952. It is a hobby that anyone, regardless of age or gender can learn. The satisfaction from producing a picture with natural materials can start from humble beginnings and progress to what some people regard as works of art. You need very little equipment to get started, which can be supplied by The Harrow Group at a very small cost.

We have an active membership, visitors to the group are most welcome and those joining us as beginners are

taught on a one to one basis. We keep a good selection of veneers and other materials; in fact most of the requisites needed for marquetry.



Examples of recent work by members.

The Harrow Marquetry Group meets on Friday evenings in The Church Hall, Hatch End Free Church, Corner of Rowlands Avenue & Uxbridge Road, Hatch End 7.30 - 10.00pm.

For further information call Martin on 020 8845 7180.

## Northwood Lions Club

**The Den** at 195 Pinner Road continues to flourish. We are open between 9.45am and 11.45am each Saturday, and if you have never entered our "Aladdin's Cave" it really is worth a visit. We welcome donations of pretty much anything which we can sell, but no large furniture or white goods, thank you. We even make money from holey jumpers, so if you are having a clear-out, please think of us.

**Books for sale.** We have just started a new venture in the United Reformed Church in Joel Street. Good quality second-hand books will be on sale there from 1.30pm to 4pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. Do come in and have a browse. We hope that this will become the first of several small enterprises whereby we can provide a useful service to the local community.

For more information about Northwood Lions please contact Robert on 07860 324395.



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**Messy Church**

Craft activities with a seaside theme for children aged 5 to 10

Sat 25th June  
5pm till 6.30pm

Methodist Church,  
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**Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society**

**19 Sep** The Life and Legacy of George Peabody  
**Christine Wagg**, Legal Assistant, Peabody Trust

**17 Oct** AGM & Reservoir to Lido — 200 years of history  
**Eileen Bowlt**, Chairman RNELHS.

Meetings are held in St Martin's Church Hall, High Street, Ruislip at 8.15pm.  
For information, please call 01895 673299 or go to [www.rnelhs.flyer.co.uk](http://www.rnelhs.flyer.co.uk)

**Ruislip-Northwood Flower Arrangement Society**

**Tues 5 July** Rayna Shiach, "Happy Holidays", St John's Church Hall, Hollowell Rd  
**Tues 6 Sep** Shirley Perkins, "Pairs", Northwood College, Maxwell Rd

Doors open at 7 pm for 7.30 pm start  
Contact: Jean Joseph on 01923 829621

**The NRA newsletter is printed by The Print Machine.**  
All enquiries welcome. Call 01923 220772.